
WIPO LIST OF NEUTRALS

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Michael SILVERLEAF
Chambers of Ian Purvis KC
London
United Kingdom



Nationality: British, Irish

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

King's College School, Wimbledon;
BSc (Physics) class 2:2, Imperial College, University of London;
Inns of Court School of Law;
Called to the Bar 1980 (Gray's Inn);
Junior Counsel to the Treasury in Patent Matters 1991-1996;
Queen's (now King's) Counsel 1996;
Accredited Mediator 2004;
Nominet DRS Expert Panel member 2008-
Called to the Bar of Ireland 2023 (King's Inns).

LANGUAGES

English

PRESENT POSITION

Barrister, Queen's Counsel (formerly King's Counsel) at 11 South Square;
Mediator;
Nominet DRS Expert Panel Member.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Member of the Bar of England and Wales;
Accredited Mediator (ADR Chambers);
Member of Nominet DRS Expert Panel;

July 6, 2026

Chancery Bar Association;
Society for Computers and Law adjudication panel member;
Member of the Irish Bar.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Intellectual Property and related areas of law including privacy and data protection and commercial disputes with high technical content.

EXPERIENCE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND OTHER AREAS

45 years practice as a barrister specializing in intellectual property and related areas of law with over 20 years' experience in mediation. Leading counsel since 1996. Appeared in dozens of intellectual property cases as leading counsel during the last 20 years including many high profile and technically or legally complex disputes. Has extensive expertise in privacy, data protection, class actions and complex contractual disputes concerning a range of technical issues. Has acted as counsel, expert witness (before the US ITC) and mediator in disputes involving SEPs in telecommunications and video coding and has experience of (F)RAND disputes involving the ETSI and ITU IPR policies.

An experienced mediator in the fields of patents, copyright, trade marks and passing off, breach of confidence, software development and licensing, technical co-operation, transfer and supply contracts, misuse of confidential information, privacy, defamation and data protection.

Experience of mediating international high-value disputes in a range of technologies from computer system licensing through pharmaceutical development to aircraft engineering and micro-electronics including licensing and technology transfer and collaboration disputes. Has developed skill and expertise in dealing with individuals from a wide range of cultural and social backgrounds. A number of the disputes have involved claims for hundreds of millions of USD or the equivalent and have covered rights in jurisdictions across the world. Has mediated (F)RAND issues.

Has a peerless track record of success in mediation. Highly skilled in helping parties to see through their dispute and identify potential solutions. Has a reputation as an effective and convincing facilitator of negotiations. Almost every dispute mediated over the last 10 years has resulted in a settlement.

Well-known for commitment and dedication in assisting the parties and has more than once helped them to reach a settlement even when they have been unable to do during the initial mediation meeting. Is flexible in approach to previously intractable disputes and parties have frequently commented that they have found his assistance in difficult negotiations invaluable. Willing to travel to wherever the parties wish to conduct a mediation.

EXPERIENCE WITH RESPECT TO DOMAIN NAMES

Acted in many cases involving online activity and a member of the Nominet DRS Expert Panel since 2008 in which capacity has decided more than 100 domain name disputes.

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Passing Off Law and Practice (Butterworths 2nd Edition 1995) co-author with John Drysdale.
Butterworths Patent Litigation (1995) edited by Gary Ropski, contributing author.
Computer Law Blackstone Press 3rd Edition (1996) edited by Chris Reed, contributing author.

EXPERIENCE IN COURT LITIGATION

One of the most experienced trial advocates in the UK. Has appeared in over 100 IP trials and 60 appeals as leading counsel. Has appeared in courts and tribunals across the world including the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, Gibraltar High Court, the High Court and Court of Appeal of Ireland and the General Court and Court of Justice of the European Union as well as the European Patent Office, the EU Intellectual Property Office and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

EXPERIENCE IN ARBITRATION

Conducted a major shipping construction and design arbitration in 2013-14 lasting several months as leading counsel for respondent. Value of claim several hundred million Euros.

Leading counsel for respondent in the first WIPO arbitration which now forms the basis of WIPO case study.

Acting as arbitrator in substantial ICC arbitration concerning technical collaboration in the field of chemical engineering and development.

Decides Nominet DRS disputes.

Has acted as an expert dispute resolver in two cases.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN MEDIATION

Accredited mediator trained by ADR Chambers (Stitt Feld Handy) in 2003 and has since taken a series of enhancement and refresher courses in 2005-2023.

EXPERIENCE IN MEDIATION

An experienced senior mediator who has conducted more than 80 mediations in the areas of IP and technical commercial disputes. Fields of disputes include patent validity, transfer and licensing, SEPs and (F)RAND, copyright, trade marks and passing off, breach of confidence, software development and licensing, technical supply contracts and data protection.

Has experience of complex international disputes across a wide range of industries including international telecommunications, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment and devices, heavy manufacturing, land and sea surveying and power generation and is accustomed to dealing with a wide variety of participants from different cultural backgrounds and all parts of the world.
